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Controversy relating to the
inscriptions upon the regiment-
al monuments of the 15th and
16th Iowa Volunteer Infantry.



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IN THE MATTER OF THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK COMMISSION AND THE IOWA SHILOH COMMISSION RELATING TO INSCRIPTIONS UPON THE REGIMENTAL MONUMENTS OF THE 15TH AND 16TH IOWA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

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Before the
HONORABLE SECRETARY OF WAR.

PROOF AND ARGUMENT PRESENTED BY
ALBERT B. CUMMINS, GOVERNOR OF IOWA.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE CONTROVERSY BE-
TWEEN THE SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY
PARK COMMISSION AND THE IOWA
SHILOH COMMISSION RELATING TO
INSCRIPTIONS UPON THE REGI-
MENTAL MONUMENTS OF THE
15TH AND 16TH IOWA VOL-
UNTEER INFANTRY.

To the Honorable Secretary of War :

The controversy to which I have referred in the title has been already determined by your Department, and this paper, and the evidence submitted therewith, is in the nature of an application for rehearing.

With respect to the 15th Iowa, General F. C. Ainsworth, Chief, Record and Pension Office, under date of March 17, 1903, and with respect to the 16th Iowa under date of March 28, 1903, filed his reports, substantially denying the claims made by these regiments. These reports you have approved.

Although I transmitted some of the papers connected with the former hearing and before doing so had examined them carefully, I made no argument, believing that the proof was so clear that you would, without difficulty, reach a conclusion in harmony with the recollection of the survivors of these regiments. I now appear as the Governor of the State which sent these regiments into the war, and as the advocate of their officers and men, who still live, and especially as the representative of the Iowa Shiloh Commission in compliance with the request

contained in the following resolution, adopted on the 22nd day of July, 1903.

At a meeting of the Iowa Commission for the erection of monuments on the Battlefield of Shiloh held, at Des Moines, July 22nd, 1903, the following resolution was on motion of Mr. Kepler unanimously adopted:

Whereas, at a meeting of this Commission held on the 28th of June, 1901, the Secretary of the Shiloh National Military Park Commission disputed the correctness of the record and history of the 15th and 16th Iowa regiments, more especially as to the time these regiments were engaged in the Battle of Shiloh, and

Whereas, at a meeting of this Commission held on the 5th of May, 1902, the subject was presented to this Commission for its consideration and determination, and

Whereas, this Commission after examining the record and history of the part taken by said regiments in the Battle of Shiloh and reading the affidavits and letters of a large number of the living officers and men of said regiments who participated in said battle, and being fully advised and satisfied in the premises, passed unanimously the following resolution:

"Whereas, a controversy has arisen between the Shiloh National Military Park Commission and John Hayes and J. W. Carson, Commissioners for Iowa representing the 16th and 15th Iowa Infantry respectively as to the time of day said regiments engaged the enemy on the "Jones Field" April 6, 1862,

Be It Resolved, that it is the unanimous judgment of this Commission after being fully advised and satisfied in the premises from the evidence produced by said Commissioners Hayes and Carson to and before this Commission, that said evidence is overwhelming and conclusive that said Iowa regiments engaged the enemy on the "Jones Field" in the Battle of Shiloh April 6, 1862, between the hours of ten o'clock and eleven o'clock a. m. of said day as claimed by said Commissioners Hayes and Carson."

And whereas, the National Commission having been advised of this action and having been requested by the Commissioners for the regiments named to consider further evidence substantiating the official records, refused to approve inscriptions for the monuments to said regiments in Shiloh National Military Park which would fix the time the commands were engaged as shown by the reports of Col. Hugh T. Reid and Col. Alexander Chambers respectively, and

Whereas, the questions at issue having been submitted to the Secretary of War for consideration and reports concerning them having been prepared by General F. C. Ainsworth, Chief of the Record and Pension Bureau, bearing the approval of the Secretary of War, and

Whereas, said reports, among other things, find that said regiments were not engaged with the enemy at Shiloh between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock a. m. April 6, 1862, as appears by official records,

Now therefore, this Commission after having further examined and inquired into the facts as presented by members of the 15th and 16th regiments and having carefully read the reports of Gen. F. C. Ainsworth, Chief of the Record and Pension Bureau, have reached the conclusion that the Chief of the Record and Pension Bureau was not fully advised in the premises, or did not give the matter in controversy such an investigation as its importance demanded and is satisfied that the report, in fact, changes and ignores the official reports of the Colonels commanding these regiments and if permitted to stand is, and will remain, a manifest injustice to the memory of said regiments and establish a dangerous precedent.

We therefore earnestly and respectfully ask, as the action of this Commission, that the Secretary of War reopen the case and that the matter be more fully and carefully presented and considered.

Second, we further respectfully ask that the inscriptions formulated by the Chief of the Record and Pension Bureau for the 15th and 16th Iowa Monuments be withdrawn for the following reasons:

1. They contain incorrect and inappropriate statements for which this Commission does not wish to be held responsible.

(a) The statement on the 15th inscription "by order of General Grant it held its position to prevent the enemy from flanking the Landing" is new matter, not found in either of the inscriptions being considered. Though based on Colonel Reid's report, it is not in harmony with General Grant's account of the battle and not appropriate here.

(b) The 15th inscription refers to the location of the monument as in a field whereas it is in the timber.

(c) From the time of the arrival of the 16th regiment until the morning of April 6th it remained, or had headquarters on the boat. It never had a camp ashore until after the battle. The statement that the 16th disembarked April 5th is incorrect.

(d) The statement that the 16th was in position at the right of the 15th on the Bluffs "for about an hour" is incorrect. Colonel Chambers' report reads as follows: "The line had been formed but a short time when I was ordered to march it," etc.

2. By the ruling of the Chief of the Record and Pension Bureau these regiments are denied what has been accorded to other Iowa regiments (as shown by tablets already placed,) namely, that of departing from War Department Records and fixing casualties as certified by the Adjutant General of Iowa.

3. It is very desirable that the bronze tablets on these monuments shall be so inscribed that the lettering shall correspond with the lettering on tablets of other Iowa monuments and thus follow the action of

this Commission that the monuments "shall be identical in every particular." The length of these inscriptions forbids it.

4. It is desired and asked that the time of engagement of these regiments shall be stated as set forth in the reports of the Regimental Commanders, Volume 10, War of Rebellion Records.

The Iowa Commission herewith submit the following inscriptions for the monuments of the 15th and 16th regiments respectively, believing that the matter therein contained is such as is authorized by the Act of Congress and by the Rules promulgated governing the erection of monuments in the Shiloh National Military Park and respectfully ask that the same be approved and this Commission be authorized to place the same on the regimental monuments, to-wit:

IOWA

15TH REGIMENT INFANTRY COL. HUGH T. REID (WOUNDED)

This regiment arrived at Pittsburg Landing at an early hour on Sunday morning, April 6th, 1862. Upon landing the men for the first time loaded their guns. Between 8 and 9 o'clock a. m., by order of General Grant it marched to re-enforce the 1st Division, conducted by one of his staff officers, and the Engineer of the 1st Division. While marching across an open field, it was fired upon by artillery and musketry. Under a murderous fire the regiment formed line of battle, advanced about 250 yards into the woods, driving the enemy before them, and for two hours, from 10 to 12 a. m., maintained its position, until outflanked and hard pressed in front to escape capture it was ordered by General McClelland, to fall back to a new line. It rallied and fought with other divisions later in the day and on Monday.

Number of men engaged 760.

CASUALTIES.

Killed, Line Officers 2, Enlisted men 20	22
Died of wounds, Enlisted men.....	20
Wounded, Field and Staff 3, Line Officers 10, Enlisted men 139....	152
Captured, Line Officers 2, Enlisted men 10.....	12
<i>Aggregate.....</i>	<i>206</i>

IOWA

16TH REGIMENT INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS. COMMANDED BY COL. ALEXANDER CHAMBERS. (WOUNDED) LT. COL. ADD. H. SANDERS.

This regiment reached Pittsburg Landing twelve days after its organization was completed and on the morning of the battle, Sunday, April 6th, 1862, first received ammunition. While preparing to join Prentiss' (6th) Division it was ordered in line on the right of the 15th Iowa to act as a reserve. When the line had been formed but a short time it was ordered to march, following the 15th Iowa, to the right of

McClelland's (1st) Division. It was here engaged at 10:30 a. m., here suffered its loss and, under orders retired.

Late in the afternoon, under Lieutenant Colonel Sanders it supported Schwartz's battery near the Landing.

On Monday the regiment was on the reserve line.

Present for duty 785.

Its loss was: Two officers and 15 men killed; 11 officers and 91 men wounded; 13 men missing; total 132.

And this Commission further respectfully asks the Governor of the State of Iowa to investigate the facts involved in the reports of F. C. Ainsworth, Chief of the Record and Pension Bureau, heretofore referred to and if upon investigation he believes, as this Commission believes, that said reports are not just to said regiments that he present the matter to the Secretary of War and take such other and further steps and action as in his judgment may seem best to the end that the 15th and 16th Iowa regiments shall have inscriptions placed upon the monuments to these regiments which shall be in harmony with their official reports.

Certified as correct

JOHN HAYES, Secretary.

In accordance with the habit of the profession accustomed to trials of fact, I beg to state the point at issue. The 15th Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, fresh from enlistment, arrived at Pittsburg Landing early Sunday morning, April 6, 1862. The 16th Iowa Regiment Volunteer Infantry, also a new regiment, arrived at Pittsburg Landing sometime during the night of April 4, 1862, disembarking, in part, on April 5th. Some time during the morning of April 6th (the first day of the Battle of Shiloh) both these regiments were formed on the river bluff and were under orders from General Grant, assigning them to Prentiss' division. They were both at the Landing, the 15th under the command of Colonel Hugh T. Reid, and the 16th under the command of Colonel Alexander Chambers, when the battle of Shiloh began. While in this position they both received for the first time ammunition, and loaded their guns. Before leaving the bluff they were ordered by General Grant to march to General McClelland's right, and an

aide was detailed to guide them to the place. They were not brigaded, and are therefore not mentioned in the general reports of the battle. Under the order to which I have referred, they marched toward the front, and while crossing an open field, now known as the Jones field, about one and one-half miles from the river, they were fired upon by both artillery and musketry. They got into line of battle as quickly as possible in the field, or in the adjacent timber, and there fought for about two hours. In this engagement the 15th Iowa lost, according to the regimental records, as certified by the Adjutant General of the State of Iowa, either killed, wounded or captured, 196 men, and according to the records accepted by General Ainsworth 185 men. The 16th Iowa lost, either killed, wounded or captured, according to their regimental records, 132 men, and according to General Ainsworth, 131 men. Their dead were buried in this field, and although they have been reinterred in the cemetery, the traces of the trenches are still to be observed. Concerning so much of the history of the 15th and 16th Iowa upon the first day of the Battle of Shiloh, there is no dispute. There have been various differences of opinion upon unimportant details which can easily be composed, and with respect to which I shall have little to say. The controverted point is this: The survivors of these regiments claim, and in this they are supported by the Iowa Commission, that their fight in and around the Jones field occurred in the forenoon—from about ten until about twelve o'clock. The Shiloh National Military Park Commission claims, and General Ainsworth has so found, that their fight occurred in the afternoon. The survivors of the regiments want the time of the engagement inscribed upon the monuments. The inscription which you have approved is silent with reference to the time.

I very respectfully submit that these regiments have a right to insist upon the time being mentioned in the inscriptions, provided a similar right has been accorded to other regiments. There ought to be no discrimination. The inscriptions for all the monuments for the Iowa regiments have been approved with the exception of the two under discussion, and all of them save one contain a report of the time. There are, in and around the Jones field, many monuments of regiments of other states, and substantially all of them are specific with respect to time.

So far as I can learn neither the Secretary of War nor the National Commission has ever denied the privilege of putting upon the monuments the time of the engagement until it was denied to these Iowa regiments, and I assume that it was denied to them only because of the controversy respecting the time. Therefore, if I can convince you that these regiments did begin their fight in Jones field about ten o'clock in the forenoon of April 6th, I assume that you will grant the same right to them that has been accorded to so many others.

The question to be presented is purely one of fact, and while I am deeply moved by the intense feeling which the old veterans, whose lives are sustained by the memories of the war experience. I hope that I can lay the evidence before you with fairness and with candor.

I shall take no pains to distinguish between the two regiments, inasmuch as it is conceded that they marched from the bluff together, entered the Jones field together, and were engaged at the same time. Let it not be forgotten as we proceed that these regiments were not brigaded, and the only official report of what they did and when they did it, is contained in the reports of their respective colonels.

Colonel Hugh T. Reid, of the 15th, reported shortly after the battle to the Assistant Adjutant General, 1st Division, Army of the Tennessee, commanded by General McClelland. His report is found in Volume 10, Series 1, Part 1, War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, pages 288-290. He says that the regiment arrived at Pittsburg Landing on Sunday morning with orders from General Grant's Headquarters to report to General Prentiss. That he did so report in person, and found a heavy fire of artillery and musketry had already commenced along his lines. He returned to the river to bring up his command. The regiment was disembarked, ammunition distributed, and the men for the first time loaded their guns. That the regiment formed in line of battle on the heights in rear of the landing preparatory to advance. At this time an order was received from a member of General Grant's staff directing him to hold the position so formed, to check any stragglers returning from the battlefield. That Colonel Chambers of the 16th Iowa formed his regiment on the right of Bouton's battery. That in this position the regiment remained for about an hour when an order was received from the engineer of General McClelland's staff, by order of General Grant, for the 15th and 16th Iowa to advance some two miles to the support of General McClelland's division. That the advance was made, the 15th leading, supported by the 16th. I now quote from the report:

"We reached an open field in front of the enemy, who were concealed in a dense wood and among tents, from which other regiments had been driven earlier in the day. Through this field the two regiments marched under a heavy fire from the enemy's artillery, and took position, by direction of General McClelland, near the tents. A regiment, said to be from Ohio, was on the field when we arrived, or came on soon after, and took position on the extreme right of the 16th. The

15th, which occupied the left, advanced upon the enemy and drove a part of them from their concealments among the tents and planted our colors in their midst, while the whole left wing of the regiment advanced under a murderous fire of shot and shell from the enemy's artillery and an incessant fire from the musketry. Our flag staff was shot through and our colors riddled with bullets. For two hours, from 10 to 12 o'clock, we maintained our position, our men fighting like veterans. The undersigned was severely wounded by a musket ball through the neck, which knocked him from his horse, paralyzed for a time, but, recovering in a short time, remounted and continued in command throughout the fight. Fifteen of the 32 commissioned officers who went on the field had been killed, wounded or taken prisoners; 22 officers and men had been killed and 156 wounded. The Ohio regiment had left the field. The enemy were attempting to outflank us on the right and left. We were unsupported by artillery or any other regiment except the gallant 16th, which had also suffered severely. It became necessary for the two regiments to retreat or run the risk of being captured, and by order of General McClelland the retreat was made. Portions of the regiment rallied, and fought with other divisions later in the day and on Monday."

Colonel Alex. Chambers, commanding the 16th Iowa, reported on April 24, 1862, to the Assistant Adjutant General of General McClelland's division, Army of West Tennessee, which report is found in the same volume to which I have referred, pages 286-287. From this report I quote the following:

"Sir: I have the honor to report that on Sunday morning, April 6, while my regiment was preparing to join General Prentiss' division, as was previously ordered, an aide of General Grant ordered my regiment in line on the right of the 15th Iowa Volunteers, to act as a reserve and prevent stragglers from reaching the river. The line had been formed but a short time when I was ordered to march it, following the 15th Iowa, to General McClelland's division, whose right was giving way. At this time large numbers of men in squads were returning. Cavalry, infantry, and several batteries of artillery were met on the road without being disabled or having lost their horses or expended their ammunition. From 9:30, a. m. to 10:30 a. m., the time occupied in reaching the battlefield, we met more men returning, of all arms, than belonged to the 15th and 16th regiments, but I must say, for the credit of the State of Iowa, not one of her quota did I meet.

"On crossing an open field, beyond which was the position of the rebels, two of my command were wounded. My regiment was formed on the right of this field in rear of a fence. An aide ordered the regiment to be formed across this open field, which was raked by heavy fire of musketry and a part of a battery of artillery. I marched the men there and ordered them to lie down, when the greater part of the enemy's fire passed harmlessly over us. I had, however, several wounded here. From this position the regiment was ordered forward to the edge of the timber, within close range of the enemy, as many of my men were wounded at the same time by both ball and buck-shot. The right of the regiment was of very little service, as they were not in a position, from the lay of the ground, to fire with much effect, but the left of the regiment became hotly engaged with the enemy, and did great execution. For nearly or quite an hour the regiment held its ground against a much larger force of the enemy, supported by artillery, when they were compelled to give way to their destructive fire and advance or be captured. Word came down the line that a retreat had been ordered, but no such order came through me. At this our whole line gave way and became mixed up with other regiments. My regiment was rallied by Lieut. Col. A. H. Sanders to the number of about 300 and was posted in rear of a battery during the remainder of that day and night, during which time those who had become mixed with other regiments returned and reformed with those under the lieutenant-colonel, I having been wounded and struck by a spent ball in the hip-joint, which was very painful and rendered me quite lame."

As already suggested, these are the only reports contained in the records of the war detailing the action of these regiments in the Battle of Shiloh, and, having been made by men of the highest character and at or near the time of the battle, they ought to be accepted, unless overthrown by evidence of greater weight.

I have not been content, however, to leave these reports without the aid of the sworn recollection of as many of the survivors of the regiments as I could readily reach, and for your convenience I now copy the affidavits of

Melville C. Davis.

C. E. Lanstrum.

Isaac B. Thatcher.

II

Wm. W. Estabrooke.
Alexander Brown.
John S. Bosworth.
J. P. Craig.
George Dehart.
Frank H. Jordan.
Wm. P. L. Muir.
Marinus Rhynsburger.
S. Ryneerson.
Charles W. Kitchell.
Truman Stone.
Jefferson L. Hockett.
Hiram Essex.
E. P. Bye.
Job Throckmorton.
O. E. Stewart.
Jacob Huffman.
David Devore.
Garret M. Hall.
T. A. H. Cunningham.
Frederick Christofel.
Freeman M. Stone.
James W. Carson.
Luther B. Thomas.
W. W. Williams.
Isaac M. Christy.
Loren S. Tyler.
H. C. McArthur.
Addison H. Sanders.
J. H. Smith.
Leo Schumacher.

12.

Wm. Kissick.
Martin V. Lott.
T. W. Summersides.
William Ruff.
Robert Alcorn.
I. C. Munger.
John Hayes.
W. J. Sawyer.
Christian Heppe.
Thomas Myers.
Lemuel Burns.
George W. Keckler.
Hans F. Hartman.
Benjamin Anderson.
Sylvanus Fisher.
Joslin Haver
Peter Kiene.
Charles Mehl.
W. H. Thrift.
Julius Wiedner.
August Flechsig.
Theodore Mikesch.
John Kline.
Balthaser Knoepfel.
Jefferson Gildea.
Peter Gettert.
George E. McCosh.
Chas. W. Kepler.

(MELVILLE C. DAVIS.)

I, Melville C. Davis, first being duly sworn, depose and say, my age is 58 years and my residence and postoffice address is No. 16 Third Street, S. E. Washington, D. C.

Having been requested to state my recollection of the time the 15th Iowa Infantry became engaged at the battle of Shiloh, I will state briefly:

On the morning of April 6, 1862, we left the landing between 8 and 9 o'clock, and about 10 o'clock, surely not later than 10:30, while moving in columns of fours across an abandoned field, we were unexpectedly fired upon. Some officer who was unknown to me was guiding us to the front, we were not in line of battle, but by columns of fours, band in front, and there was heavy firing to our right front and to our left front, showing beyond question that we were surprised by a body of the enemy that had evidently passed through a gap in the line of our army.

At that time I was a drummer (Co. E) with the band in front. We were playing "The Girl I left Behind Me." My memory is good and all of our movements that morning from the time we marched off the boat until we entered the fight are clear and distinct in my mind. We became engaged between 9:45 and 10:30 a. m., and held the position we at once doubled-quickened to, at the end of "Jones field," for at least two hours.

I remained constantly with the regiment until July, '64, and know there was never any question raised about the time we held the field at Shiloh, but it was spoken of as from 10 to 12 o'clock, and that is my recollection now.

MELVILLE C. DAVIS.

(Verified.)

(C. E. LANSTRUM.)

Whereas, a controversy has arisen between the National Shiloh Commission and 15th and 16th Regiments, Iowa Infantry, as to what time the said regiments engaged the enemy on April 6th, 1862, the first day of the Battle of Shiloh, Tenn., I therefore make the following statement under oath:

I was 2d Lieut. of Co. B, 15th Iowa Infantry, and present with my company. I know that our regiment marched to the front about 9 o'clock a. m., and about 10 o'clock a. m. we were fired upon by the enemy and we remained in action for near two hours and a half. Private Conrad Wentzie of my company was killed during that time, 1st Sergeant Henry Moreland was wounded in head, Private Henry Edmundson was wounded and Private Martin V. B. Barnes. All this occurred between the hours of 10 o'clock a. m., and 12 o'clock m.

C. E. LANSTRUM,

Lieut. and Capt. Co. B, 15th Iowa Infantry.

(Verified.)

(ISAAC B. THATCHER.)

I, Isaac B. Thatcher, being duly sworn, on my oath declare that I was a private soldier of Co. E, 15th Iowa Vol. Inf., also later on Captain of Company K, 15th Iowa Vol. Inf. I was present at the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862, with my company and regiment as a private of Co. E, 15th Iowa Infantry. Between 8 and 9 o'clock a. m., of said day, we marched under orders *hurriedly* towards the front, double-quickening a portion of the way.

About 9:45, not later than 10 a. m., while marching in column of fours across an open field (now known as Jones' field) we were surprisingly fired upon by artillery and musketry. This was a surprise, because our expectations were being guided by a constant roar on the general line of battle further in the front, on the right and left.

We were at once formed in battle line and charged the enemy, driving them from their ambushed position. We maintained our position in a constant fight from two to two and a half hours. I was wounded about 11 o'clock, but remained in rear of company and regiment until they began to fall back, when my brother (a sergeant) came to my aid and accompanied me to the Hospital Boat at the landing, which place we reached by 12:30, or not later than 1 o'clock p. m.

I was reared on a farm and think I can measure time very well, and especially in day light, and being a participant in the first day's fight until wounded, I know the 15th Iowa did its fighting from 10 to 12 o'clock m., or possibly to 12:30 p. m., of April 6, 1862.

I. B. THATCHER.

Late Capt. Co. K, 45th Ia. Vol. Inf.

(Verified.)

(WM. W. ESTABROOKE.)

Whereas, a controversy has arisen between the National Shiloh Commission and the 15th and 16th Regiments, Iowa Infantry, as to the time the said regiments engaged the enemy on April 6th, 1862, the first day of the battle of Shiloh, Tenn., I therefore make the following statement under oath:

I was Chaplain of the 15th Regiment Iowa Infantry and was constantly on duty as Surgeon whilst connected with the regiment. Soon after the regiment engaged in the battle of Shiloh (no later than 10 o'clock a. m.) wounded soldiers were brought to the rear to be treated. Among the wounded who came was Colonel Chambers of the 16th Iowa, "shot through the right arm—flesh wound." (I quote from a memoranda I made on that day and which is now in my possession), whose wound I treated myself. I cannot state the exact time I dressed Colonel Chambers' wound, but I am positive it was 12 o'clock, noon.

WM. W. ESTABROOKE.

Late Chaplain 15th Iowa Infantry.

(Verified.)

(ALEXANDER BROWN.)

State of Iowa:

ss.

Van Buren County:

Alexander Brown, aged 66 years, a resident of Keosauqua, in the County and State aforesaid, being duly sworn, on oath states, that he is the identical Alexander Brown who was Sergeant Major of the 15th Regiment of Iowa Infantry Volunteers in the service of the United States in the war of 1861. That said regiment arrived at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, about daylight on the morning of Sunday, April 6, 1862. He was on duty that morning and as soon as the morning report was made out the Colonel took it and went to report to General Grant. In the meantime the regiment had been disembarked from the boat, ammunition had been issued to the men and in connection with the 16th Regiment of Iowa Infantry Colonel Chambers had formed in line on the bluff above the landing, and as soon as Colonel Reid of the 15th Regiment returned, or a short time after, we were marched out about two miles from the landing, as stated in Colonel Hugh T. Reid's report, where we finally took position. In my judgment this could not have been later than 10 o'clock a. m., the time the Colonel states, and I feel very sure we were not there longer than till 12 o'clock, noon, when we were ordered, as I afterwards understood, to fall back. Just as we were ordered back I was quite severely wounded in the hip, and on that account I did not pay as much attention to the time of day we fell back as I might otherwise have done, but I feel very confident that the time stated in the Colonel's report is correct.

ALEXANDER BROWN.

(Verified.)

(JOHN S. BOSWORTH.)

I, John S. Bosworth, being duly sworn, on my oath say:

I was a member and drummer of Co. K, 15th Iowa Inf., and was present with the band, which was at the front of the regiment when it entered the battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6, 1862.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock that day my regiment moved from the bluff near Pittsburg Landing towards the front. About 10 o'clock, a. m., while being led across a field (now known as "Jones' field"), while moving in columns of fours, the band in front playing, and while still considerably back of the battle front (judging from the firing), were greatly surprised at being fired upon by artillery and musketry.

Line of battle was immediately formed and the regiment advanced into the woods, where it remained under fire from two to two and a half hours. Col. Gibbons, then Assistant Surgeon of our regiment, estab-

lished a temporary hospital back of the line a short distance, where I assisted in caring for the wounded.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock Colonel Reid, who had been shot through the neck, desired assistance to the river. I went with him to the boat, holding him on his horse, which his orderly, Hawley, of Co. H, was leading. I helped him off his horse and on to the boat, and I have every reason to believe, and I do believe, that it was not later than 1 o'clock p. m. when we arrived at the boat near Pittsburg Landing, April 6, 1862.

JOHN S. BOSWORTH,
Co. K, 15th Iowa Infantry.

(Verified.)

(J. P. CRAIG.)

Regarding contention as to time of day the 15th Iowa Infantry engaged the enemy in the battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6, 1862, my recollection is as follows:

We arrived at the landing at daylight. Disembarked and formed on top of bluff. Received ammunition for the first time. While distributing it and instructing the men how to tear open cartridges, load, etc., we were ordered to march.

I have thought over this matter of time much since this contention has arisen, time of our arrival, time consumed in disembarking, time receiving and distributing ammunition, time when sun rises April 6th, 5:38. I have talked with men of the 21st Mo. Inft., some of whose command were brought in past us just as we were about to start for the front, asking their opinion as to time those wounded reached the landing. They say they were attacked before sunrise and after a short fight were driven from their position and their wounded—not left on the field—were taken at once to the landing. In their opinion, must have reached the landing about 8 o'clock or not later than 8:30, a. m. This corroborates my own remembrance.

If at any time during the past forty-one years I had been asked, what time did your regiment leave the landing for the front, I certainly would have answered, between 8 and 9 o'clock, a. m. Now, we marched hurriedly at double-quick, when road permitted, and, considering the distance from top of bluff to where we struck the enemy, it could not have been later than 10 a. m. when we went into action. As to time we remained under fire I cannot say positively. I did not consult watch when ordered to fall back. In our talks together about that battle immediately after and during our service, we always counted the time as two hours or longer.

J. P. CRAIG,
Late Capt. Co. E, 15th Iowa Infantry.

(Verified.)

(GEORGE DEHART.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 Van Buren County :

George Dehart, being duly sworn, on oath states that he is the identical George Dehart who was a private in the 15th Regiment, Iowa Infantry Vols., in the service of the United States in the war of 1861. His age is 66 years. He was on duty as a guard on the morning of April 6, 1862. His company was Co. E, of said regiment. The regiment arrived at Pittsburg Landing at about daybreak and, after the men had breakfast, about fifty rounds of ammunition were issued to each man, or rather that was the order, and then we were formed in line on the bluff above the landing and after remaining there a short time were marched out about two miles, where we were met by a heavy fire from the enemy. While he does not know the exact time we reached the front, he is confident that the time was not later than 10 o'clock, the time stated in the Colonel's report of the engagement, and he is very sure we did not remain there longer than 12 o'clock, noon, when we fell back.

He never heard the statement of the Colonel questioned when he was in the army.

Further deponent says not.

GEORGE DEHART.

(Verified.)

(FRANK H. JORDAN.)

To Whom It May Concern:

I certify I was a member of the 15th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, and was present at the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862, and can certify Colonel Reid's report of the part his regiment, the 15th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, took in said battle as being correct, and it could not have been later than 10 a. m. to 12 m.

FRANK H. JORDAN,
 Co. E, 15th Iowa Infantry.

(WM. P. L. MUIR.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 Van Buren County :

I, William P. L. Muir, on oath say that I am 65 years of age, that I am a resident of Bonaparte, Iowa, that my occupation is that of a retired farmer. On or about the 14th day of October, 1861, I enlisted as a private in Co. E, 15th Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, for the war of the rebellion. On April 6, 1862, at about 4:30 o'clock, a. m., I

landed on the steamer Minnehaha, with my company and regiment, at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn. I was then 1st Sergeant of Co. E. About 6 o'clock a. m. occasional bombs of artillery could be heard in the direction of Shiloh church. About 8 o'clock a. m. the 15th Iowa disembarked and formed on the river bank, where forty rounds of ammunition was distributed to each man. About 8:45 the regiment marched to the top of the bluff above the landing and formed line with the 16th Iowa Infantry, across the Pittsburg Landing and Corinth wagon road, with orders to stop all stragglers coming from the front, where the battle of Shiloh was already under way. While in this position ten additional rounds of ammunition and extra rations of "hard tack" was issued to each man. About 9:30 a. m. the regiment, 15th Iowa, was ordered to march to the front, starting on the same road we had been guarding. While marching by the flank across an open field about 10:30 a. m. the regiment was fired upon by the enemy in line on our right in the edge of the woods. The 15th Iowa changed front and advanced into the woods under fire, where we were hotly engaged for two hours or possibly a little longer. *After we were ordered back from our first position and had retired a short distance I consulted Captain William T. Cunningham as to the time of day. His watch showed it to be 12:55 p. m. I give the above dates from my diary kept clear through the war. I did not carry a watch at the time, but consulted those who did as to time.*

WILLIAM P. L. MUIR.

(Verified.)

(MARINUS RHYNSBURGER.)

State of Iowa :
 : ss.
Sioux County :

I, Marinus Rhynsburger, being duly sworn, do depose and say: I was a member of Company A, 15th Regiment, Iowa Infantry Volunteers, and was present with my company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, on April 6th, 1862. My regiment arrived at the landing about 6 o'clock a. m., on April 6th, were unloaded and ordered to the front about 9 o'clock a. m. on same day; that on arriving at the front, and while marching across an open field we were fired upon by the enemy; we marched into the woods, formed line of battle, and drove the enemy about three hundred and fifty yards, and through the camp of the 11th Illinois Regiment, where our regiment was halted; this position we maintained from about 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock, noon, when, being flanked, we were ordered to fall back to a new position.

MARINUS RHYNSBURGER.

(Verified.)

(S. RYNEARSON.)

I, S. Rynearson, late Captain Company C, 15th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, being duly sworn, on my oath state: On April 6th, 1862, during the battle of Shiloh I was a sergeant in Co. C, said regiment, and with it in the battle aforesaid. About 8 o'clock a. m., of that day, my company and regiment were ordered to the front. About 10 o'clock a. m., while moving across a field by the flank, band in front playing, we were fired upon with artillery and musketry. We were greatly surprised at this, as the firing in front indicated the front, or fighting line, was considerable in advance. The regiment formed line of battle, advanced into the timber and held the advanced position until after 12 o'clock.

Just as we entered the field I looked at my watch. It was 10 o'clock. I looked at my watch again when we fell back, and it was 12:10. I make this statement under oath from my own personal knowledge. I wrote the same fact home to my father at the time. The 15th Iowa Volunteer Infantry was engaged in that battle, April 6, 1862, two hours and ten minutes. From 10 o'clock a. m. until 12:10 p. m.

S. RYNEARSON.

Sergeant Co. C, 15th Iowa; Late Capt. same Co. and Regiment.
(Verified.)

(CHARLES W. KITCHELL.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Madison County :

Charles W. Kitchell, being first duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

That I am a resident of Winterest, Madison County, Iowa, and have been a resident of said county twenty-four years. That I have no interest in making this affidavit other than to furnish proof of the facts stated here. That I was a soldier in the Union Army during the War of the Rebellion, and a member of Company G, 15th Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry. That I enlisted as a private in said company in the month of October, 1861, and was discharged as a first sergeant during the month of July, 1865. That I was present with my regiment during the battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, on the 6th day of April, 1862. We landed from the steamboat about 7 o'clock in the morning of that day and were formed on line on the bank, and ammunition was issued to us. This was the first time that ball cartridge ammunition was issued to our regiment, except what was issued to the details on guard on the steamer at night during our trip up the river.

We moved forward as soon as the necessary arrangements were completed and met the enemy about two miles from the starting place. The fighting began about 10 o'clock a. m., and lasted about one hour, when our command received orders to retreat. We reached the river

again about noon. I had no watch, but distinctly remember the time of day as nearly as I could estimate it without a timepiece. We came in contact with the enemy and the firing began about 10 o'clock, began the retreat about an hour later and reached the river about noon. I am absolutely certain that the regiment was engaged before noon of that day, and did no fighting after noon.

CHARLES W. KITCHELL.

(Verified.)

(TRUMAN STONE.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Polk County :

I, Truman Stone, first being duly sworn, depose and say: That I was a member of Company G, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry Volunteers, during the Civil War. That on the 6th day of April, 1862, I was with said company, on which day the 15th and 16th Iowa Infantry Volunteer Regiments were ordered from the boats about 8 o'clock and lined up on the bank of the Tennessee river awaiting orders. I have a distinct recollection of General Grant being present that morning talking to the Colonels of the two regiments. A few minutes before 9 o'clock a member of the staff of General McClelland reported to General Grant that General McClelland would be compelled to retreat unless reinforced. At 9 o'clock a. m., sharp, the two regiments were ordered by General Grant to advance and reinforce General McClelland, and were piloted by the member of General McClelland's staff who brought the report to General Grant. As to whether or not the regiments reached General McClelland's line I am not able to say, but after advancing about three miles we came under the enemy's fire at 10 o'clock and remained there for two hours, being ordered back at 12 o'clock by General McClelland.

TRUMAN STONE.

(Verified.)

(JEFFERSON L. HOCKETT.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
County of Polk :

On this 14th day of October, 1903, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public, in and for said county and state aforesaid, Jefferson L. Hockett, reputable and entitled to credit, who, being duly sworn, states that his age is 70 years, and residence Des Moines Iowa. I was a member of Co. G, 15th Regiment Iowa Volunteers, and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh on the 6th day of April, 1862; the regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock a. m., Sunday morning, and while marching in column across an open field

was fired upon by the enemy. We then formed line of battle and advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the 11th Illinois Volunteers, which position we maintained from 10 o'clock until 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line or position.

JEFFERSON L. HOCKETT.

(Verified.)

(HIRAM ESSEX.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
County of Marion :

On this 24th day of October, 1903, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state aforesaid, Hiram Essex, reputable and entitled to credit, who, being duly sworn, states that his age is 66 years, and residence and postoffice address is Knoxville, Iowa. That I was a member of Company G, 15th Regiment Iowa Volunteers, and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh on the 6th day of April, 1862. The regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock Sunday morning and while marching in column across the open field was fired upon by the enemy.

We then formed in line of battle and advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the 11th Regiment Illinois Volunteers, which position we maintained from 10 o'clock a. m., until 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line or position.

HIRAM ESSEX.

(Verified.)

(E. P. BYE.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Marion County :

On this 17th day of October, 1903, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state aforesaid, Edwin P. Bye, reputable and entitled to credit, who, being duly sworn, states that his age is 76 years and residence and postoffice address is Knoxville, Marion County, Iowa. That I was a member of Company G, 15th Regiment Iowa Volunteers, and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh on the 6th day of April, 1862. The regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock Sunday morning, and while marching in column across the open field was fired upon by the enemy. We then formed line of battle, and advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the 11th Regiment Illinois Volunteers, which position we maintained from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12

o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line or position.

E. P. BYE,
Late Capt. Co. G, 15th Iowa.

(Verified.)

(JOB THROCKMORTON.)

Whereas, a controversy has arisen between the National Shiloh Commission and the 15th and 16th Regiments, Iowa Infantry, as to what time said regiments engaged the enemy on the first day of the battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6, 1862.

I therefore make the following statement under oath: I was 2d Lieutenant of Co. F, 15th Iowa Infantry, at that time, and was on duty as Officer of the Day, and left at Pittsburg Landing in charge of the camp and garrison equipage of the regiment, with orders to unload the boat upon which the regiment had arrived. The regiment marched toward the front between 8 and 9 o'clock a. m., of said day, and between the hours of 10 (ten) and 11 (eleven) o'clock a. m., of said day, a number of the wounded men from our regiment were brought back to the boat.

JOB THROCKMORTON,
2d Lieut. Co. F, 15th Iowa Inf. Later Cap. Co. F, and Bvt. Maj. U. S. V.
(Verified.)

(O. E. STEWART.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Union County :

I, O. E. Stewart, being duly sworn, say: That I was a member of Company E, 15th Iowa Volunteers, and was present with my company and regiment on April 6, 1862, at the battle of Shiloh, and about 9 o'clock a. m. we received orders to march immediately to the support of General McClelland, First Division, and while marching in column across an open field we were fired upon by the enemy. We then formed line of battle and advanced, driving the enemy in our front and through the camps of the 11th Illinois, which position we maintained from 10 a. m. to 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we were ordered to fall back to a new line.

O. E. STEWART,
(Verified.)

(JACOB HUFFMAN.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 Butler County :

I, Jacob Huffman, being first duly sworn, on oath depose and say that I was a private of Company D, 15th Regiment, Iowa Infantry Volunteers, in the War of the Rebellion. That I was with my company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh. That our regiment arrived by boat, at daylight on Sunday morning, the first day of the battle. I was a teamster and helped lead Col. Reid's horse from the boat; he was the first to land and left the boat to find a place to go into camp. After his return to the boat we were landed and formed on the bank of the river and guns and ammunition issued to us. We then marched out to the battle ground, distant about two and a half miles, to the place called "Peach orchard." Our regiment became engaged in the battle at half past 9 o'clock in the morning, and were in the fight one and a half hours, as near as I can recollect.

Dated at Green, Iowa, October 6th, 1903.

his
 JACOB HUFFMAN
 mark

(Verified.)

(DAVID DEVORE.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 County of Polk :

On this 15th day of October, 1903, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state aforesaid, David Devore, reputable and entitled to credit, who, being duly sworn, states that his age is 63 years and residence 142 East Walnut street, Des Moines, Iowa. I was a member of Co. C, 15th Regiment Iowa Volunteers, and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh, on the 6th day of April, 1862; the regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock a. m., Sunday morning, and, while marching in column across an open field, was fired upon by the enemy. We then formed line of battle, and advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the 11th Illinois Volunteers, which position we maintained from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line, or position.

DAVID DEVORE,
 Late Pri. Co. C, 15th Reg't. Inf. Vols.

(Verified.)

(GARRET M. HALL.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 County of Polk :

On this 14th day of October, 1903, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state aforesaid, Garret M. Hall, reputable and entitled to credit, who, being duly sworn, states that his age is 60 years, and residence 614 Lyon Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

I was a member of Company I, Fifteenth Regiment Iowa Vols., and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh on the 6th day of April, 1862; the regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock a. m., Sunday morning, and, while marching in column across an open field, was fired upon by the enemy. We then formed line of battle and advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the Eleventh Regiment Illinois Vols., which position we maintained from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line, or position.

GARRET M. HALL.

(Verified.)

(T. A. H. CUNNINGHAM.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 County of Marion :

On this 23rd day of October, 1903, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state aforesaid, T. A. H. Cunningham, reputable and entitled to credit, who, being duly sworn, states that his age is 61 years, and residence and postoffice address is Knoxville, Iowa. That I was a member of Company K, Fifteenth Regiment Iowa Vols., and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh on the 6th day of April, 1862. The regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock Sunday morning, and, while marching in column across the open field, was fired upon by the enemy.

We then formed line of battle and advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the Eleventh Regiment Illinois Vols., which position we maintained from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line or position.

T. A. H. CUNNINGHAM.

(Verified.)

(FREDERICK CHRISTOFEL.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 Marion County :

On this 17th day of October, 1903, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state aforesaid, Frederick Christofel, reputable and entitled to credit, who, being duly sworn, states that his age is 71 years, and residence and postoffice address is Knoxville, Marion County, Iowa. That I was a member of Company K, Fifteenth Regiment Iowa Vols., and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh on the 6th day of April, 1862. The regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock Sunday morning, and, while marching in column across the open field, was fired upon by the enemy.

We then formed line of battle, and advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the Eleventh Regiment Illinois Vols., which position we maintained from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line or position.

FREDERICK CHRISTOFEL,
 Late 1st Lieut. Co. K, 15th Vol. Infy.

(Verified.)

(FREEMAN M. STONE.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 Marion County :

On this 17th day of October, 1903, personally appeared before me, a notary Public in and for said county and state aforesaid, F. M. Stone, reputable and entitled to credit, who, being duly sworn, states that his age is 62 years, and residence and postoffice address is Knoxville, Marion County, Iowa. That I was a member of Company K, Fifteenth Regiment Iowa Vols., and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh, on the 6th day of April 1862. The regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock Sunday morning, and, while marching in column across the open field, was fired upon by the enemy.

We then formed line of battle, and advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the Eleventh Regiment Illinois Vols., which position we maintained from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line, or position.

FREEMAN M. STONE.

(Verified.)

(JAMES W. CARSON.)

State of Iowa :
 : ss.
 Clarke County :

I, James W. Carson, first being duly sworn, on my oath depose and say that I was a member of Co. I, 15th Iowa Volunteers, and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh on April 6th and 7th, 1862. The regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock a. m., Sunday morning, and, while marching across an open field, was fired upon by the enemy. We then formed line of battle, advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the 11th Illinois, which position we held from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock, noon, at which time we received orders to fall back to a new line.

JAMES W. CARSON,

Present Commissioner of 15th Iowa for Iowa Monuments on the Battlefield of Shiloh.
 (Verified.)

(LUTHER B. THOMAS.)

State of Nebraska :
 : ss.
 Gosper County :

I, L. B. Thomas, being duly sworn, depose and say:

That I was a member of Co. I, 15th Iowa Volunteers, and was present with my company and regiment on April 6th and 7th, 1862, at the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, and that company and regiment were ordered to the front about 9 o'clock a. m., to the support of General McClelland, First Division, and, while marching in column across an open field, was fired upon by the enemy. Marched into woods and formed line of battle, advanced about 300 yards, driving the enemy in our front and through the camps of the 11th Illinois Regiment to a position on the crest of the ridge and at a road running north and south. This position we held from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock, noon, when we received orders to fall back to a new line.

LUTHER B. THOMAS.

(Verified.)

(W. W. WILLIAMS.)

State of Iowa :
 : ss.
 Clarke County :

I, W. W. Williams, first being duly sworn, on my oath depose and say that I was a member of Co. I, 15th Iowa Volunteers, and was present with company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh on April 6th and 7th, 1862. The regiment was ordered to the front about 9 o'clock a. m.,

Sunday morning, and, while marching in column across an open field, was fired upon by the enemy. We then formed line of battle, advanced on the enemy and drove them about 350 yards, and through the camps of the 11th Illinois, which position we held from 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 o'clock noon, at which time we were ordered to fall back to a new line.

W. W. WILLIAMS.

I was Corporal at that time and late 2nd Lieut. Co. I, 15th Iowa.
(Verified.)

ISAAC M. CHRISTY.)

I, Isaac M. Christy, being duly sworn, do say:

I was a member of Company I, 15th Regiment Iowa Infantry Volunteers, and was present with my company and regiment at the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, on April 6th and 7th, 1862.

My regiment arrived at the Landing about 6 o'clock a. m., on April 6th, were unloaded and ordered to the front about 8:30 to 9 o'clock a. m. That arriving at the front, and while marching across an open field, we were fired upon by the enemy. We marched into the woods and formed line of battle and drove the rebels about 350 yards, and through the camp of the 11th Illinois Regiment, where our regiment was halted. This position we held from about 10 o'clock a. m. until 12 to 12:30 o'clock p. m., when, being flanked, we were ordered to fall back to a new position.

ISAAC M. CHRISTY.

(Verified.)

(LOREN S. TYLER.)

Whereas, a controversy has arisen between the National Shiloh Commission and the 15th and 16th Regiments, Iowa Infantry, as to what time the said regiments engaged the enemy on April 6, 1862, the first day of the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee.

I therefore make the following statement under oath: I was a musician of Co. H, 15th Iowa Infantry, present with the regiment when, by orders, between 8 and 9 o'clock a. m., it marched from the bluffs above Pittsburg Landing towards the front. Without a halt the command reached an open field, not over two miles from the Landing. I was with the band directly following Col. H. T. Reid, Adj. George Pomutz and a staff officer guiding the column towards the firing some distance to the front. When the above officers had reached the farther end of the field, which was surrounded by thick woods and underbrush, the enemy opened fire with artillery and musketry upon the 15th Iowa Infantry. Not a skirmisher was in front of our regiment, not a single shot was fired, until the enemy opened with both artillery and musketry

and the action in which the 15th and 16th Iowa fought unsupported by any other troops began, because the 15th Iowa had been led into ambush.

The 15th Iowa formed line of battle and advanced through the woods, driving a portion of the enemy before them and held their ground for two hours or more, until, to avoid being captured, they were ordered to fall back. With other members of the band I was engaged in assisting the wounded back to the primary hospital, where Assistant Surgeon Gibbon was engaged in attending the wounded. I distinctly remember hearing Adj. Pomutz, who was severely wounded in the thigh, towards the close of the fight say, as we reached the primary hospital, which was between 200 and 300 yards in the rear of our line, that it was then after 12 o'clock.

Col. H. T. Reid, in his report dated April 9, 1862, says: "For two hours, from 10 to 12 o'clock, we maintained our position." I served the 15th Iowa Infantry from December 21, 1861, to August 5, 1865, and knew personally hundreds of men of that regiment, and compiled the history of our regiment in 1885-6, and I feel positive that I have had a much larger correspondence with the survivors of the 15th Iowa than any other man living. Not one of them have I ever heard say a word contradicting the time Col. Reid reports his regiment was in action, but, on the contrary, several of our line officers state emphatically that the 15th Iowa fought until 12:30 o'clock p. m. For thirty-nine years Col. Hugh T. Reid has believed in it sincerely, and there is not a shadow of a doubt why they should not.

In 1901, Secretary D. W. Reed, of the Shiloh National Commission, wrote to Col. Cadle, Chairman of that Commission (a copy of which Col. Cadle sent to me), saying: "There has been no disposition to *ignore* Colonel Reid's report. In fact, it has been accepted and full credence given to every statement except that in which he says: "For two hours, from 10 to 12 o'clock, we maintained our position." This statement shows on its face that it is only approximating the time. No evidence that he consulted his watch, but rather that it was his recollection of the time as it came to him when writing his report." The entire contention of the Shiloh National Commission is: That Col. H. T. Reid approximated his 10 to 12 o'clock. The Secretary of that Commission says plainly: "In fact, it (Col. Reid's report) has been accepted and full credence given to every statement except that one."

I, L. S. Tyler, have personally examined Vol. 10, Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, in which are the reports of fifty-seven Union Officers, being nearly all that made reports of the part their commands took in the battle of Shiloh.

The fifty-seven reports include all the Division, Brigade, Regimental and Battery Commander's reports. And whenever and wherever anyone, and everyone of the above fifty-seven Union Commanders men-

tioned the time of day, each and everyone of them approximated the time they stated. And every time it plainly "shows on its face" that they did approximate the time. Not one of the fifty-seven officers present any evidence that he consulted his watch! Not one of the fifty-seven officers in any way, shape, form or manner, mentions a watch.

Hence, the Shiloh National Commission had no foundation to build any contention upon whatever against the 15th and 16th Iowa Infantry.

LOREN S. TYLER,

Late Musician H Co., 15th Iowa Infantry, and Compiler of the History of the 15th Iowa Veteran Infantry.

(Verified.)

(H. C. McARTHUR.)

I, H. C. McArthur, late 1st Lieut. Co. H, 15th Iowa Vol. Infantry, Brevet Captain and Major U. S. V., being duly sworn, state: I was a Sergeant in Co. K of the 15th Iowa Volunteer Infantry at the time of the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862, and was with my company and regiment during the battle.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock a. m., April 6, 1862, the regiment marched towards the front. About 10 o'clock a. m., while hurrying to the front of the battle line (which, from the sound of the firing, seemed a considerable distance off), we were surprised, ambushed, by a Confederate force which opened upon us with artillery and musketry. The regiment was changed from flank to line of battle, advanced into the woods, driving the enemy from among some tents in our front. This advanced position was held for two to two and a half hours—from 10 to 12 or 12:30 p. m.

H. C. McARTHUR,

Sergeant Co. K, 15th Iowa Vol. Inf. Late 1st Lieut. Co. H, same Reg't., and Brevet Capt. and Major U. S. V.

(Verified.)

ADDISON H. SANDERS.

Understanding that a controversy has arisen relating to the time at which the 15th and 16th Iowa Regiments first engaged the enemy at the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862, I desire to make this statement:

I was Lieut. Colonel of the 16th Regiment during the battle, and when its colonel, Alexander Chambers, was wounded, I took command.

Our regiment arrived at Pittsburg Landing on the evening of April 5th, and remained on the boat during the night. On the morning of the 6th the regiment went ashore, the battle opened and the regiment for the first time received ammunition. Although it had been assigned to Prentiss' Division, the emergencies of the case were such that it was ordered and conducted (in conjunction with the 15th Iowa Regiment)

to McClelland's Division. In approaching the position where the regiment fought it entered an open field which, I am informed, is now known as Jones' Field. While crossing the field it was fired upon and shortly engaged the enemy.

I have always had a distinct recollection of this event, my first introduction to battle. The time was at or about 10 a. m., Sunday, April 6, 1862, in no event was it later than 10:30.

ADDISON H. SANDERS,
Lieut.-Col. 16th Iowa Vol. Inf.

(Verified.)

(J. H. SMITH.)

State of Iowa :
:ss.
Clinton County :

J. H. Smith, being first duly sworn, upon his oath says he was Captain of Company A, 16th Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, at the time of the Battle of Shiloh. The 16th Iowa disembarked at Pittsburg Landing on the morning of April 6th (having arrived there on April 5th, or on the evening of April 4th) and were formed into line and ammunition distributed. Soon after we were ordered into action and some time between 10 and 11 o'clock a. m. of April 6th, my company came under fire of the enemy. My company was in front at the time and we were marching by the right flank. While so marching I had four men seriously wounded, one losing a leg and another an arm and none of the four were ever on duty afterwards. I could distinctly see the battery that was firing on us and at that time there were no troops in front of us that I could see, except the enemy. We immediately formed in line of battle and I directed my company to fire on that battery, which they did and we had it completely silenced so that it caused no more trouble. During the engagement I had four men killed before we were obliged to retire. There were no other troops near us aside from the 15th Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry that I could see, except the enemy. I unhesitatingly declare that this engagement took place between 10 and 11 o'clock Sunday morning, April 6th, and that we held our places in what is known as the Jones' Field and in the timber adjacent to it, for more than an hour.

J. H. SMITH.

(Verified.)

(LEO SCHUMACHER.)

State of Iowa :
:ss.
Scott County :

Leo Schumacher, being first duly sworn, upon his oath says:

That he was 2nd Lieut. of Company G, 16th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, and was in the battle of Shiloh. *I can give the correct time when*

we went into action on Sunday morning, April 6th, as I have a record of every day's doings of my company and regiment. The 16th Iowa went into battle at 10 a. m., and about 12. m., the regiment was forced to retire. At 3 p. m. the regiment was again in battle, supporting Schwartz's battery, until about 6 p. m., when fighting stopped for that day. I know these things to be true, not only because of my memory, but because I kept a record of them.

LEO. SCHUMACHER.

Late 2nd Lieut. and Capt. Company G.

(Verified.)

At the battle of Shiloh I was 2nd Lieut. Our Captain, John Ruehl, was killed and 1st Lieut. Henry Meyer severely wounded. Twenty-one non-com. officers and men of the company were killed and wounded in less than an hour, so I took command of the company, being soon promoted to Captain.

LEO SCHUMACHER.

Late Capt. Co. G, 16th Iowa Infantry Voy.

(WILLIAM KISSICK.)

State of Iowa :
 : ss.
Mahaska County :

William Kissick, being first duly sworn, says: That he was a member of Company C, 16th Iowa Volunteers, at the battle of Shiloh, and that he was subsequently its captain.

On the morning of April 6, 1862, the 16th Regiment was formed on the bluffs at Pittsburg Landing and under Colonel Chambers' orders marched probably a quarter of a mile, where we were halted and the Colonel rode down the line, in the rear, and gave the file closers their orders, which were to the effect that their duty was to keep their men in ranks and if any man attempted to run while in action they were to shoot him. I will never forget this order. As soon as he had ridden the entire line he came to the head of the regiment and we were started for the battlefield. We reached the open field, now known as Jones' Field, between 10 and 11 o'clock a. m., and, while crossing the field, were fired upon and went at once into action. I cannot possibly be mistaken about the time, because this engagement is impressed upon my memory more sharply, probably, than any thing that has occurred in my life.

WILLIAM KISSICK.

(Verified.)

(MARTIN V. LOTT.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Blackhawk County :

Martin V. Lott, being first duly sworn, says: That he was a member of Company I, 16th Regiment, Iowa Volunteers, at the battle of Shiloh, and was subsequently its captain.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock on the morning of April 6, 1862, we marched away from Pittsburg Landing, after having received our ammunition. Toward the front, and on the way out, we met scores of men going to the rear with the report that all was lost. I am positive that we received our first fire not later than 10:30 o'clock on that morning in what is now known as the Jones Field, and we held our positions there or about the edges of the field, for between one and two hours. I cannot be mistaken about this time, for the stirring events that occurred on April 6 and 7, 1862, are not easily effaced from one's memory.

MARTIN V. LOTT.

(Verified.)

(T. W. SUMMERSIDES.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Delaware County :

T. W. Summersides, being first duly sworn, upon his oath says:

That he was a member of Company H, 16th Regiment of Iowa Volunteers, at the battle of Shiloh, and was subsequently its captain.

My recollection is, and I am very positive about it, that it was not later than 10:30 a. m., April 6, 1862, that the 16th Iowa, while crossing what is now known as Jones Field, was met by the enemy and went into action and continued to fight there for an hour or more. I cannot, of course, tell the exact moment, but it was between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning.

T. W. SUMMERSIDES.

(Verified.)

(WILLIAM RUFF.)

State of Illinois :
 :ss.
Cook County :

William Ruff, being first duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says:

That he was formerly Captain of Company G, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was a member of said company at the battle of Shiloh.

Our regiment entered the battle on the morning of April 6, 1862, not later than 10:30. All the circumstances preceding the event—our

first arrival at Shiloh, hearing of the battle and the sound of guns in early morn, the coming in of the wounded, the eagerness peculiar to the buoyancy of youth (I was but fifteen) filled me with a longing to get into the fray, little dreaming what an awful thing a battle was—are indelibly impressed upon my mind, and the time of our engagement is clear in my memory.

WILLIAM RUFF.

(Verified.)

(ROBERT ALCORN.)

Territory of Oklahoma :
:ss.
Day County :

Robert Alcorn, being duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was First Lieutenant of Company D, 16th Iowa Volunteers, during the battle of Shiloh.

On the morning of April 6, 1862, I was on duty as officer of the day at Pittsburg Landing. When the regiment was ordered to the front I changed places with my captain (Crandall W. Williams), by permission of Colonel Chambers, and thereupon joined my company and took command. The regiment marched in a south or southwest direction about a mile and a half, there entered an open field, now known as Jones Field, and received its baptism of fire from a battery stationed in the timber beyond. We continued across this field, losing some men from shots from this battery. The regiment formed in line, Companies A, F and D in the timber, the other seven companies in the field. Then an officer, said to have been an aide to General McClelland, ordered Colonel Chambers to change our position, advance and take the battery. A new line was formed and an attempt made to execute the order, but the artillery and musketry fire was so heavy that it was almost impossible for us to advance. Reaching a line of tents in the edge of the timber, a halt was made and the regiment then had opportunity, for the first time, to use their guns. We remained in this position over an hour. During this time the enemy could be seen moving across our front from left to right and as the 16th was at the extreme right of our line without any protection whatever, it was patent to everyone that we were being flanked. The matter was explained to several officers, among them Captain Dayton of General Sherman's staff, but the reply was that there were no troops available to meet the movement of the enemy and that we must do the best we could. While in this position, and while I was talking to Colonel Chambers about our position, the storm struck from the timber on our right. Colonel Chambers was wounded, some one shouted "Let us get out of here"—and we got out, not standing on the order of our going.

We went into action at the line of tents not later than 11 a. m. We had already been under fire at least half an hour without using our guns, and it was not later than 10:30 a. m. when our regiment was first fired upon in the open field.

(Verified.)

ROBERT ALCORN.

(I. C. MUNGER.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Blackhawk County :

I. C. Munger, being first duly sworn, upon his oath says:

That he was a member of Company I, 16th Iowa Volunteers, at the time of the battle of Shiloh, and was subsequently its first lieutenant.

The regiment was first engaged in an open field, now known as Jones Field, and it was not one minute later than 10:30 a. m., April 6, 1862. Our second stand was made before 12 o'clock. We had no camp at Shiloh until after the battle.

I. C. MUNGER.

(Verified.)

(JOHN HAYES.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Montgomery County :

John Hayes, being duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was orderly sergeant, Company C, 16th Iowa Volunteers at the battle of Shiloh.

When the battle opened on the morning of April 6, 1862, our regiment was at Pittsburg Landing, disembarking from the boat which had brought us from St. Louis. As soon as it was evident that there was a fight on hand we were formed on the bluff overlooking the Landing. For the first time we received ammunition and were given instruction in loading our guns. We were then conducted about a mile and a half through timber, the 15th Iowa preceding us, and entered a clearing, which is now known as Jones' Field. Advancing across this field, marching by the right flank (columns of fours) we were fired upon by artillery and here lost several men. We halted for a brief time and again advanced under fire of both musketry and a battery in the timber at our front. Coming close to the timber the regiment was ordered "On the right by file into line." This order, under the circumstances, proved to be a mistake, and a new formation was made directly fronting the enemy. During these maneuvers, wholly unprotected from the enemy's guns, we had strict orders not to fire, and some little time intervened between the enemy's first fire on us and our first fire upon the enemy.

We received the first shot about 10 o'clock; it might have been 10:30 a. m., but not later, when we first discharged our guns. The 15th Regiment, which preceded us, was on our left. We had no support on our right, and there were no other troops in sight except the enemy. I cannot be mistaken as to the time I give of this engagement. It was the most momentous event of my life and I know that it transpired as herein stated.

At the time of the battle the location was strange to me. Two days afterwards I was there again in charge of a detail to bury our dead. I then learned that the 11th and 13th Iowa Regiments were in camp before the battle at this side of this field. Subsequently in visits to the battlefield I have seen the place. It is now known as Jones Field.

JOHN HAYES.

(Verified.)

(W. J. SAWYER.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss
Adams County :

W. J. Sawyer, being first duly sworn, upon his oath says:

That he was orderly sergeant of Company F, 16th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, at the battle of Shiloh. The 16th Iowa left the bluffs at Pittsburg Landing about 9 o'clock a. m., and not later than 10:30 a. m. Was actively engaged with the enemy on what is now known as Jones Field. I know this to be true because I was wounded in the right arm in that engagement at that place and was sent back to the Landing. I reported on the hospital boat, had the bullet taken from my arm and the wound dressed before 1:30 p. m. of that day.

W. J. SAWYER.

(Verified.)

(CHRISTIAN HEPPE.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Muscatine County :

Christian Heppe, being first duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was a member of Company F, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

My recollection is that our regiment arrived at Pittsburg Landing April 5th and stayed on the boat until the next morning. Having friends in the 11th Iowa I went out to their camp early on the morning of the 6th. While there the long roll beat and I returned to my regiment at the Landing. Soon after reaching the Landing we were ordered out to the front and led to the camp of the 11th which I had visited—an open field (which I understand is now known as Jones Field), where

we were engaged with the enemy. I had no watch at the time, but it was between 10 and 11 o'clock a. m., April 6, 1862.

CHRISTIAN HEPPE.

(Verified.)

(THOMAS MYERS.)

State of Iowa :
:ss.
Boone County :

Thomas Myers, being first duly sworn, says:

That he was a member of Company D, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

Our regiment marched to the front between 9 and 10 o'clock of the morning of April 6, 1862. *By 10 o'clock we had reached the fighting line and shortly thereafter became engaged.*

My recollection of the battle is very distinct, having there been wounded.

THOMAS MYERS.

(Verified.)

(LEMUEL BURNS.)

State of Iowa :
:ss.
Woodbury County :

Lemuel Burns, being first duly sworn, says:

That he was a member of Company H, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

I was wounded in this battle at about 10:30 a. m., April 6, 1862, and have a very distinct recollection of events. We reached a field which I understand is now known as Jones Field, not later than 10 a. m., and were engaged shortly thereafter.

LEMUEL BURNS.

(Verified.)

(GEORGE W. KECKLER.)

State of Iowa :
:ss.
Muscatine County :

Geo. W. Keckler, being duly sworn, says:

That he was a member of Company C, of the 16th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, and was in the Battle of Shiloh. That on the morning of April 6th I was engaged in drilling a part of Company C of the 16th Iowa in the manual of loading, at Pittsburg Landing. I was so engaged when the Captain ordered the company brought in, for the regiment

was ordered to go into battle. I know that the 16th was in the battle on what is now known as the Jones Field, not later than half past 10 o'clock a. m. on that day, and I know that it supported Schwartz's battery in the afternoon.

GEORGE W. KECKLER.

(Verified.)

(HANS F. HARTMAN.)

State of Illinois :
:ss.
Rock Island County

Hans F. Hartman, being first duly sworn, upon his oath says:

That he was a member of Company B, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

Our regiment left the boat early in the morning of April 6th, 1862, received ammunition, formed and marched to the battlefield. We were engaged with the enemy between the hours of 9 and 11 a. m., to the best of my knowledge and belief.

HANS F. HARTMAN.

(Verified.)

(BENJAMIN ANDERSON.)

State of Iowa :
:ss.
Scott County

Benjamin Anderson, being first duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was a member of Company D, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

On the morning of April 6, 1862, our regiment formed in line at Pittsburg Landing. Then we received ammunition for the first time and half of us did not know how to load our guns. The battle had commenced and we were marched out some distance through the timber; then went into an open field and were engaged.

I am positive that all this transpired in the morning, but cannot give the exact hour.

BENJAMIN ANDERSON.

(Verified.)

(SYLVANUS FISHER.)

State of Iowa :
:ss.
Muscatine County

Sylvanus Fisher, being first duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was a member of Company C, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh. Our regiment formed and went to the front

in the morning. I am sure of this. One of the incidents I remember is that in the hurry I lost my breakfast. It is my belief that we were first in the fight not later than 10 a. m., April 6, 1862, and my recollection concerning it is very distinct.

SYLVANUS FISHER.

(Verified.)

(JOSLIN HAVER.)

State of Iowa :
 : ss.
Cass County :

Joslin Haver, being first duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was a member of Company C, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

My recollection is that about 9 a. m. our regiment left the Landing, started for the field, double-quickened a part of the way, and on reaching an open field, which I am informed is now known as Jones Field, were fired upon by artillery. We advanced across the field and came within range of the enemy's musketry. At about the first fire Abner Corriell was wounded and I was ordered by Captain Palmer to take him off the field, which I did. We came under fire soon after 10 o'clock. The events of that morning are fresh in my memory.

JOSLIN HAVER.

(Verified.)

(PETER KIENE.)

State of Iowa :
 : ss.
County of Dubuque :

I, Peter Kiene, being first duly sworn, on oath depose and say:

That I was a member of Company E, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh. On the morning of April 6th, 1862, our regiment was in line at the Landing waiting for orders, and, as near as I can remember it, it has always been my belief that we moved under orders at about 9 o'clock, marching first on one of the main roads and then through some timber until we reached an open field, through which we started to march under directions of an aide, and were fired on by a Confederate battery just as soon as we came within range of same.

We entered the field not later than 10:00 a. m., took our position on same, and were under fire over one hour, and retired from the field between 11 and 12 o'clock.

PETER KIENE.

(Verified.)

(CHARLES MEHL.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 Dubuque County :

Charles Mehl, being first duly sworn, says:

That he was a member of Company G of the 16th Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was in the battle of Shiloh. Our regiment left Pittsburg Landing about 9 o'clock on Sunday morning, April 6, 1862, and marched hurriedly about two miles and we entered what is now known as Jones Field, not later than 10 o'clock a. m. While we were crossing this field we were engaged by the enemy and when we were first fired upon it was somewhere between 10 and 10:30, and we fought there for more than an hour. I have recently talked with five other members of my company and they all agree that we were in the fight not later than 10:30, and I have also refreshed my memory by a letter written home a few days afterwards, which states that we began our march from Pittsburg Landing.

CHARLES MEHL.

(Verified.)

(W. H. THRIFT.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 County of Dubuque :

W. H. Thrift, being duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was a member of Company D, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and took part with his regiment in the battle of Shiloh.

Our regiment formed at Pittsburg Landing. Marched through timber between one and two miles, entered an open field, and was in the fight before 11 o'clock a. m., Sunday, April 6, 1862.

W. H. THRIFT.

(Verified.)

(JULIUS WIEDNER.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 Dubuque County :

Julius Wiedner, being first duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says:

That he was a member of Company G, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

I remember very well the arrival of our regiment at Pittsburg Landing, and how we formed in line April 6, 1862, and marched to the front; that we entered an open field and first received fire from the enemy not later than 10 a. m., April 6, 1862.

JULIUS WIEDNER.

(Verified.)

(AUGUST FLECHSIG.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Dubuque County :

August Flechsig, being duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was a member of Company G, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

In regard to the time when our regiment was first engaged in the battle, my firm and positive recollection is that it was at or about 10 a. m., April 6, 1862.

AUGUST FLECHSIG.

(Verified.)

(THEODORE MIKESCH.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Dubuque County :

Theodore Mikesch, being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:

That he was a member of Company G, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

On the morning of April 6, 1862, our regiment formed at the Landing and the battle having opened we were marched to the front. The most of our march was through timber. At length we reached an open field, were fired on by artillery and, advancing, came within range of the enemy's musketry. We were first fired on not later than 10 a. m.

THEODORE MIKESCH.

(Verified.)

(JOHN KLINE.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Dubuque County :

John Kline, being first duly sworn, on oath says:

That he was a member of Company G, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

In regard to the time when our regiment was first engaged in the battle, my firm and positive recollection is that it was at or about 10 a. m., April 6, 1862.

JHON KLINE.

(Verified.)

(BALTHASER KNOEPFEL.)

State of Missouri :
 :ss.
 City and County of St. Louis :

Balthaser Knoepfel, being first duly sworn, upon his oath says he is a member of Company F, 16th Iowa Infantry Volunteers, and was in the battle of Shiloh. Between 8 and 9 o'clock on the morning of April 6, 1862, the 16th Iowa marched from the bluffs at Pittsburg Landing in the direction where the firing was going on. It was not long until we could hear the musketry by volleys. About 9:30 a. m. we halted, and came to a front for a short time only, and here Captain M. Zetler of Company K, and J. R. Young, of Company F, received their mortal wounds, but we did not do any firing. Again we moved by the right flank until we reached the Jones Field (I have always called it the cotton field), and there we halted twice and were continuously under fire, mostly artillery but some musketry. After the second halt in the Jones Field, we moved by the left flank a short distance to the left and took our final stand, the 15th Iowa being to our left. Here we were fired upon by a battery and rebel infantry. Our work began and lasted, according to my recollection, about an hour, until our line towards the right was broken and we were ordered to fall back into the timber where we made another stand. This fight in the Jones Field, according to my recollection and my diary, began between 10 and 10:30 a. m., on April 6th.

BALTHASER KNOEPFEL.

(Verified.)

(JEFFERSON GILDEA.))

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
 Boone County :

Jefferson Gildea, being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:
 That he was a member of Company D, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

On the morning of April 6, 1862, our regiment formed at Pittsburg Landing, and marched to the front. We were conducted through the timber to an open field, and there received the first fire from the enemy. This was at or about 10 a. m.

JEFFERSON GILDEA.

(Verified.)

(PETER GETTERT.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Muscatine County :

Peter Getfert, being duly sworn, upon oath says:

That he was a member of Company C, 16th Iowa Volunteers, and was at the battle of Shiloh.

My recollection of the battle and of the time we were first engaged is very clear. Company C had fallen in for a drill under George W. Keckler, when Captain Palmer came up and gave orders for the company to fall in with the regiment and prepare for battle. This we did and the regiment marched to the battle ground. Just as we were about to engage in battle and while under fire of the enemy I looked at my watch to see the time of day it was, and I distinctly remember that it was then 10:30 a. m. by my watch. This was April 6, 1862.

PETER GETTERT.

(Verified.)

(GEORGE E. McCOSH.)

City and County of St. Louis :
 :ss.
State of Missouri :

George E. McCosh, being first duly sworn, upon his oath says:

That he is now a resident of the City of St. Louis. That at the time of the battle of Shiloh, Tenn., he was Adjutant of the 16th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Colonel Alexander Chambers commanding. The 16th Iowa arrived at Pittsburg Landing, according to my recollection, on Friday, April 4, 1862, between 5 and 7 o'clock p. m. On the way up the river the boat had landed at Savanah and General Grant had given Colonel Chambers an order assigning the regiment to General Prentiss' division. Saturday, the 5th of April, was spent in unloading arms, ammunition, stores, etc. This work was not completed until dark that night. About 4 o'clock Colonel Chambers received an order from General Prentiss to remain at the Landing and join him on Sunday morning in time for inspection about 9 o'clock. About 6:30 a. m., April 6th, an orderly reported that General Prentiss was hotly engaged and his headquarters had moved. General Chambers then ordered the ammunition unboxed and distributed sixty rounds per man. About 8:45 the regiment was formed, and my recollection is that about 9:00 a. m. General Grant and his staff passed, going to the front. An officer from his staff, Colonel Webster, as I remember, ordered the formation of a provisional brigade of the 15th and 16th Iowa, under the command of Colonel Reid, and that we move forward a short distance to act as reserve. About 9:30 o'clock we were ordered into the firing line, the 15th Iowa on the right. About two miles out we came to a cotton field,

which I understand has since been known as the Jones Field (this field was just in rear of camp of 11th Iowa Inf), which was crossed in column of fours. When partially across the 15th formed line of battle by filing to the right and the 16th came into line by the order ' On the left by file into line.' This difficult movement was accomplished without any confusion. We were then three-fourths of the way across the field and Colonel Chambers sent me back to bring up a few (ten or fifteen) men who were assisting the wounded, as he needed every man able to be on the firing line. The line of battle was just beyond the cotton field. It was ten minutes past 10 o'clock a. m. when the regiment reached the edge of this field, and I do not think ten minutes more were consumed in crossing the field and forming a line of battle. After accomplishing the duty for which I was detached, I rejoined Colonel Chambers at the line of battle. We were in action an hour or more, during which time my horse was shot and I was dismounted. Then came the order to fall back, as the enemy had broken through the line to the right of the 15th. After recrossing the cotton field the regiment passed down into a ravine and up the opposite slope. Here I met Colonel Reid and he ordered me to assist in reforming the line of battle, and later in the day the brigade supported a battery. The report of the 16th Iowa in this action was written by Colonel Chambers and I made a copy of it, and I know it is substantially correct respecting the time the regiment began firing. I cannot be mistaken with respect to the fact that 15th and 16th Iowa were engaged by the enemy on this field, or at its edge, somewhere between 10 and 10:30 a. m., on April 6th, and that they held their places in a hot fight for more than an hour.

GEO. E. McCOSH.

(Verified.)

(CHARLES W. KEPLER.)

State of Iowa :
 :ss.
Linn County :

I, Charles W. Kepler, late Captain of Company A, 13th Iowa Infantry, Veteran Volunteers, being first duly sworn, on my oath say: That I was a member of Company A, 13th Iowa Infantry, and was present with my regiment during the battle of Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862. That at the time of said battle I was acting as Orderly Sergeant of my company. That prior to the time of the commencement of the battle, April 6, 1862, my regiment was encamped on the Jones Field. That our first line of battle was formed in front of Review Field, at which point the regiment first engaged the enemy. That during the forenoon of said day we were ordered to fall back several times in the direction of Jones Field. I remember distinctly of hearing musketry and artillery firing on our right and rear in the direction of, or on, or

about the Jones Field between the hours of 10 and 11 o'clock a. m., of said day. I remember this fact because myself and a number of my comrades were talking about the fighting at the time being in our old camp, and that all our camp and our effects would be destroyed or captured.

CHARLES W. KEPLER.

(Verified.)

You now have before you the positive, affirmative, testimony, sustaining the contention of the Iowa Commission and the survivors of these regiments. If it were necessary I believe that I could procure the affidavits of every living man belonging to these regiments, who fought at Shiloh, but I must believe that whatever contemporaneous reports, supported by human memory can prove, the reports and the affidavits now submitted will prove. It is impossible for me to conceive that there can be substantial error in this accumulation of evidence. I beg to call your attention to some of the points of strength which particularly impress me. I am not so technical as General Ainsworth, nor do I believe that one who seeks for the truth can weigh testimony as he does. He had, however, but a tithe of the proof before him which I now submit to you.

In considering the force of what I have laid before you do not forget that I am not attempting to establish that the engagement began exactly at 10, 10:15, or 10:30. With respect to minutes there is that wholesome variation in the recollection of these witnesses and in the statements in these reports which is the highest criterion of absolute honesty and independence on the part of the witnesses. But with respect to the general proposition that the two regiments fought in the forenoon, beginning about ten and that their engagement closed somewhere between 12 and 12:30 there is perfect unanimity. I

press this upon you because you are a lawyer and you understand better than the non-professional man can, how complete the test is. I have presented, in addition to the reports sixty-two affidavits. They are made by men who have not only proved their loyalty and courage in war, but their worthiness in peace. To hold that these men are not to be believed is to impeach a multitude of our best citizens. It cannot be said that so many men are mistaken with respect to the central and pivotal point about which the dispute has arisen. I venture the assertion that there is no court in christendom and no jury ever impaneled that could resist the pro-lative effect of what these men unitedly say. As I have already suggested, we are not trying to determine the precise moment at which these two regiments engaged the enemy. The controversy assumes a definite form which may be thus expressed, without regard to minutes. It is agreed by all who ever had occasion to become familiar with the Battle of Shiloh that the fight began early in the morning. It is perfectly well known that when McClelland's and Sherman's divisions were first engaged, their line of battle was a mile in advance of the Jones field. It is known also that gradually during the forenoon the line was forced back toward the river, and I have no hesitation in admitting that the general line of battle, in its retiring movement, did not reach the Jones field until noon or afternoon. It is the theory of the National Commission, and of General Ainsworth that these two Iowa regiments did not reach the Jones field until about twelve o'clock, and then engaged the enemy as a part of the general battle line, and fought with their fellow soldiers of McClelland's and Sherman's divisions. On the other hand our claim is that the 15th

and 16th fought a force of confederates who had broken through the battle line between McClelland's right and Sherman's left. That the fight occurred a half mile or more in the rear of the general line, and that there were no other Union troops in the immediate vicinity during the engagement. You will thus observe that the dispute is more essential and fundamental than the mere question of minutes. It resolves itself into the part which these regiments played in the tragedy; and although these regiments lost, the one, 196 and the other 132 men, and although the dead were buried on the spot the evidence upon which the National Commission and General Ainsworth rely to fix the engagement in the afternoon might just as well be invoked to establish the proposition that they were not in the fight at all. I will defer the consideration of the reports until I come to review General Ainsworth's findings. I only desire at this time to bring to your notice some of the statements in the affidavits.

Nearly every man makes prominent one fact, namely, that while they were marching across the Jones field, without a thought of meeting the enemy at that point, they were fired upon—as many of them express it, they were ambushed—surprised, and made their battle formation under the fire of both artillery and musketry. Is this consistent with the idea that they were simply marched into the general retreating line of the two divisions and became a part of a large force endeavoring to withstand the assaults of the general confederate army? Does it not show conclusively that long before the regiments had reached the point where they expected to join McClelland, the attack from which they suffered occurred? Many of them remember distinctly that the band was playing, and one or

two of them remember the time to which they were listening when they received the first shot.

Mr. Thatcher, then a private soldier, but afterwards Captain of Company K, says he was wounded about eleven o'clock but remained in the rear of his company and regiment until they began to fall back. That his brother came to his aid and accompanied him to the hospital boat at the landing, which he reached, he thinks, by 12:30, certainly not later than one o'clock.

Wm. W. Estabrooke, who was Chaplain but acted as Surgeon during the fight, says he treated the wound which Colonel Chambers of the 16th received, and that while he cannot state the exact time, he is positive it was not later than 12 o'clock when he dressed the wound.

It will be remembered that Colonel Reid, who, although wounded, remained with his regiment until it was ordered back. John S. Bosworth, who was a member and drummer of Company K, 15th Iowa, says he went with Colonel Reid to the boat, holding him on his horse, and that he reached the boat not later than one o'clock.

William P. L. Muir, who was a sergeant of Company E, 15th Iowa, says:

"After we were ordered back from our first position and had retreated a short distance I consulted Captain William T. Cunningham as to the time of day. His watch showed it to be 12:25 p. m. I give the above dates from my diary, kept clear through the war. I did not carry a watch at the time, but consulted those who did as to the time."

In a former part of his affidavit he declares that while marching across the open field about 10:30, A. M. the fight began.

S. Rynearson, who afterwards commanded Company C,

of the 15th Iowa, but at the time of the battle was sergeant in Company C, says:

"Just as we entered the field I looked at my watch. It was 10 o'clock. I looked at my watch again when we fell back, and it was 12:10. I make this statement on my oath, of my own personal knowledge. I wrote the same fact home to my father at the time. The 15th Iowa Infantry was engaged in the battle, April 6, 1862, two hours and ten minutes, from 10 a. m. until 12:10 p. m."

Job Throckmorton, who at the time was 2nd Lieutenant Company F, 15th Iowa, was officer of the day and was left at Pittsburg Landing in charge of the camp and garrison equipage of the regiment, with orders to unload the boat upon which the regiment had arrived. He says:

"The regiment marched toward the front between 8 and 9 o'clock a. m., of said day, and between 10 and 11 a. m. a number of the wounded men of our regiment were brought back to the boat."

I feel sure you will give especial attention to the affidavit of Lieutenant-Colonel Addison H. Sanders, of the 16th Iowa. Colonel Chambers, as has been already stated, was wounded toward the close of the fight, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders assumed command. After detailing the march to the field, and the engagement, he says:

"I have always had a distinct recollection of this event—my first introduction into battle. The time was about 10 a. m., April 6, 1862, in no event was it later than 10:30."

Leo Schumacher was 2nd Lieutenant of Company G, 16th Iowa, and he says:

"I can give the correct time when we went into action on Sunday morning, April 6th, as I have kept a record of every day's doings of my company and regiment. The 16th Iowa went into battle at 10 a. m., and about 12, m., the regiment was forced to retire. At 3 p. m. the regiment was again in battle supporting Schwartz's battery, until about 6 o'clock, when the battle stopped for the day. I know these things to be true, not only from memory, but because I kept a record of it."

I must not enlarge this argument by further specific references. I beg a careful reading of all the affidavits. Without exception they declare that their fighting began at from 10 to 10:30 in the forenoon, and many of the statements are replete with detail which compels belief in their accuracy. With all of these men this was their first battle. Many of them were wounded, many of them had friends killed or captured. Taking them all together, he who asserts that these regiments fought with other regiments in the general line of battle, in the afternoon when McClelland's and Sherman's divisions had been forced back to the Jones field, must either have repudiated all virtue in human character or abandoned all confidence in human memory, no matter how impressive the circumstances which engraved the events upon the mind. There is one affidavit, that of Charles W. Kepler, which presents the situation from the point of view occupied by a soldier in another regiment. Mr. Kepler at the time of the battle was orderly sergeant of Company A, 13th Iowa. The 13th Iowa was upon McClelland's extreme right. Company A was on the right of the regiment, and the orderly sergeant on the right of the company. Hence, Mr. Kepler was as near Sherman's left as any soldier in the division. He says:

"Prior to the time of the commencement of the battle, April 6, 1862, my regiment was encamped on the Jones Field. Our first line of battle was formed in front of Review Field, at which point the regiment first engaged the enemy. During the forenoon of said day we were ordered to fall back several times in the direction of the Jones Field. I remember distinctly of hearing musketry and artillery firing on our right and rear in the direction of, or on, or about the Jones Field, between the hours of 10 and 11 o'clock a. m. of said day. I remember this fact because myself and a number of my comrades were talking about the fighting at the time being in our old camp, and that our camp and all our effects would be destroyed or captured."

This corroborates the view that a confederate force had broken through between Sherman and Mc Clernand and had met the two Iowa regiments as they were passing to the front. I submit that unless there be evidence of the most conclusive character to the contrary, you must accept this overwhelming array of proof respecting the time and place of the fight in which the 15th and 16th Iowa Infantry Volunteers took part, and which their regimental monuments are intended to commemorate.

I turn now to a brief examination of the reports made by General Ainsworth, for it is in these reports that the case made against the regiments is presented. I pass over all the minor points of difference, for I doubt not that once we have settled the chief controversy, we can very easily agree upon the inscription.

The question of time is considered in paragraph 11 of the report. General Ainsworth says :

“A careful and laborious examination and comparison of the other official records in connection with Colonel Reid’s report has resulted in the unqualified conviction that he is in error in his statement of time. That accuracy upon this point by Colonel Reid is absolutely incompatible with the mutually corroborative accounts of all other reports of the battle of Shiloh, with the single exception of that of Colonel Chambers, of the 16th Iowa. The Confederate reports clearly and conclusively prove that no Confederate force reached the Jones field until about noon, and in this they are corroborated by the Union reports. The Union reports fail to disclose that any Confederate troops reached the vicinity of the Jones Field until the Union line retired thereto about noon. There was no gap of any material size occasioned by the breaking of Hildebrand’s brigade, and any Confederate troops endeavoring to pass through between Sherman and McClernand were undoubtedly promptly checked. Colonel Reid reports that when he came on the field the enemy were concealed ‘among tents from which other regiments had been driven earlier in the day,’ and that the 15th Iowa fought the enemy ‘in a position from which more experienced troops had been compelled to retire.’ It will be noted that if other troops had already been

driven from the tents before he arrived, and he fought in a position from which more experienced troops had been compelled to retire, and if he fought there from 10 to 12, there must have been fighting there at least half an hour before he arrived, or, in other words, if Reid is correct, the fighting at that place by the preceding troops must have been done as early as 9:30, indeed as 'more experienced troops' would not probably have 'been compelled to retire' without a hard struggle, it would logically follow that the enemy must have commenced fighting there at 9 o'clock, or shortly thereafter; and there must, of course, have been Union regiments there, sustaining the attack. But it is a fact that not a single Union or Confederate division, brigade, or regimental commander mentions such an action. Every Union regiment is accounted for, and not a single one could have been engaged there at such an early hour, nor, indeed, until about noon.

"It is concluded that the 15th Iowa was ordered to the front about 10 a. m., as stated upon the muster roll of Company B for March and April, 1862, signed by Captain Wilson T. Smith, commanding company; that owing, first to being led in the wrong direction, and, then, to the circuit and obstruction of the route traversed, it did not reach the Jones Field until nearly if not quite noon. At this time McClelland and Sherman were being driven back upon the Jones Field, McClelland's troops being driven from the last of the Second Brigade tents, near the Jones Field, just before the arrival of the 15th Iowa. This regiment, supported by the 16th Iowa, appears to have been at once thrown against the enemy with good effect, driving them back from the tents, as described by Colonel Reid's report; and a general forward movement was then made by McClelland's line, by which he succeeded, as he says in his report, in driving the enemy back for some distance. It is believed that the 15th Iowa held its advanced position for from one to two hours. Colonel Reid says for two hours; Colonel Chambers, 16th Iowa, in his report, says, 'for nearly, if not quite, an hour;' and Colonel Reid says that the two regiments retired together.

"As to this point of difference, it is recommended that the language of the approved inscription be adhered to, and that the particular hour be not specified."

In his report respecting the 16th Iowa, General Ainsworth uses the same language, relies upon the same facts and reaches the same conclusions and therefore it is not necessary to reproduce it.

In order to convict Colonel Reid of error, General Ainsworth seizes upon that part of his report which states that when he came upon the field, the enemy were concealed

"among tents from which other regiments had been driven earlier in the day;" that the 15th Iowa fought the enemy "in a position from which more experienced troops had been compelled to retire," and comments upon it in a way that does not create a pleasant impression among the people of a state who are proud of Colonel Reid's record in the war and have confidence in his uprightness of character. It may be that Colonel Reid was mistaken in saying that other regiments had been driven from the tents earlier in the day. It is apparent upon the face of the report that this statement was made upon information, and not from personal observation. It is one of the connecting links in the history of the regiment for that day, and is of no importance whatever in the present dispute. Colonel Reid did not use the two phrases together. He employed the first in describing the movements of the regiment and the second in complimenting or praising his own boys. I am not to be understood as admitting that there had been no engagement on the Jones field earlier in the day, but I do not inquire into it, simply because it is not pertinent to the investigation I am making. I do know, however, that all the way from the river to the Jones field, the 15th and 16th Iowa had been met by retreating men who had passed from the front, wherever it was, over the Jones field to the rear, and I can easily understand how Colonel Reid obtained the impression that the confederates which he found around the Jones field had driven these troops from the tents. The Secretary of War has been too long engaged in trials of fact to attach any importance to this error, if it be an error, and he will not fail to distinguish the difference between a statement, plainly made from

inference, and information, and the statement of a fact of personal knowledge respecting a movement of which Colonel Reid was a part.

The portion of General Ainsworth's findings which is vital and touches the point is, that there was no fighting about or on the Jones field until noon, and I now proceed to his conclusions upon that subject. He says:

"The Confederate reports clearly and conclusively prove that no Confederate force reached the Jones Field until about noon, and in this they are corroborated by the Union reports."

I have not examined the Confederate reports with thoroughness, but I have examined them sufficiently to know that they do show that there were Confederate forces somewhere in the rear of the general Union line before noon. Colonel Trabue, commanding the 4th Kentucky Brigade, reports, on page 613-21 of the volume to which I have already referred, that he had a fight at 9:30 in the morning on the verge of a long crescent shaped open field, about a mile and a half from Pittsburg Landing, and that he fought there for an hour and a quarter. That the field showed marks of recent conflict, but if you will examine the map approved by the National Commission, it will appear that Trabue's position at 9:30 was near the Jones field. I have examined with painstaking care, the reports of General Grant who commanded the army, the reports of General Prentiss, McClelland and Sherman, as well as the reports of many other officers, and I affirm that there is nothing in any of these reports inconsistent with the presence of Confederate troops in the vicinity of Jones field about 10 o'clock in the forenoon. On the contrary, there are many things in these reports which support the positive proof which we have offered. Nearly every re-

port shows that sometime during the forenoon some regiment or brigade was compelled to change from front to rear in order to repel an assault from the rear. General McClelland says on page 115:

"The situation of the Third Brigade at this juncture was most critical. General Prentiss' and Sherman's divisions had retired, leaving the brigade exposed to combined attack. The enemy in front were recovering from the disorder of his repulse and the forces of Beauregard and Polk were sweeping around on the right and left."

Again he says on page 116:

"Our resistance, however, was overborne by superior numbers which still continued to flank the right of my line."

Again on the same page:

"Wholly unsupported on the left and outflanked on the right by increasing numbers, to save my command from being surrounded I ordered it to fall back about 200 yards and reform at right angle with the center of my camp."

General Sherman says, on page 249:

"I saw at once that the enemy designed to pass my left flank and fall upon Generals McClelland and Prentiss, whose line of camps was almost parallel with the Tennessee River and about two miles back from it. Very soon the sound of musketry and artillery announced that General Prentiss was engaged, and about 9 a. m. I judged that he was falling back. About this time Appler's regiment broke in disorder, soon followed by fugitives from Munger's regiment, and the enemy pressed forward on Waterhouse's battery, thereby exposed."

Appler's and Munger's regiments were in Hildebrand's brigade, and this brigade held the left of Sherman's line. The importance of this will be seen as I quote further.

"Although our left was thus turned and the enemy was pressing on the whole line, I deemed Shiloh so important that I remained by it, and renewed orders to Colonels McDowell and Buckland to hold their ground, and we did hold those positions till about 10 o'clock a. m., when the enemy got his artillery to the rear of our left flank and some change became absolutely necessary. Two regiments of Hildebrand's Brigade—Appler's and Munger's—had already disappeared to the rear, and Hildebrand's own regiment was in disorder, and therefore I gave

direction for Taylor's Battery, still at Shiloh, to fall back as far as the Purdy and Hamburg road and for McDowell and Buckland to adopt that road as their new line."

Again on page 250:

"Hildebrand's brigade had substantially disappeared from the field, though he himself bravely remained. McDowell's and Buckland's Brigades still retained their organization, and were conducted by my aides so as to join on General McClelland's right, thus abandoning my original camps and line. This was about 10:30 a. m., at which time the enemy had made a furious attack on General McClelland's whole front."

Many other extracts could be made which bear upon the same general situation. I very earnestly submit that, in view of the positive and uncontradicted testimony of so many of the survivors of these regiments, the reports of their Colonels, and the conditions of the battle when Sherman's left disappeared entirely and McClelland's right was completely turned when the rebel artillery was in the rear, the assertion that there could have been no Confederate troops in the vicinity of the Jones field between 10 and 11 o'clock, is simply a flight of the imagination and is intended to make symmetrical that which in fact was as irregular as any battle in the history of wars.

I approach the discussion from another standpoint. Neither the National Commission nor General Ainsworth question the fact that the 15th and 16th Iowa had a fight of the bloodiest character sometime between 10 o'clock in the forenoon and 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. This could not well be denied for each command lost more men than many a regiment that was engaged throughout the entire day. Nor is it doubted that the fight took place in the Jones field and along its borders. This is manifest because the regimental monuments have been there located under a rule that fixes the regi-

mental monument at or near the most advanced position of the regiment, occupied during the battle. Let us now examine the proposition involved in the findings of General Ainsworth, which as I understand it is, that at about noon, when McClelland's and Sherman's lines had been beaten back to the Jones field, the 15th and 16th Iowa came upon the ground and reinforced the line and thus became a part of the fight which these two generals and their divisions carried on for the next few hours. If this be true, what consequences should have followed? If the 15th and 16th Iowa joined McClelland's forces, then they succeeded in doing precisely what they started from the Landing to do; that is, re-inforce McClelland. If they thus became attached to his division and fought with it, it must be that he knew it, and yet you will look in vain in his long, descriptive report for a single reference to or mention of these two regiments. If they joined Sherman's division and became a part of his force and fought in his line, there certainly would be some report of it, for no man ever needed re-inforcements more than Sherman as his line of battle rolled back over the Jones field; but there is not in his report a suggestion that these regiments took any part whatever in the fight that he was making. They are referred to in his report, and so far as I have been able to ascertain this is the only glimpse we catch of them in any account of the battle except in the reports of their own Colonels. On page 250 of the volume from which I have frequently quoted General Sherman is explaining the condition of affairs about 10:30, and then follows this remark:

"While we were so hardly pressed two Iowa regiments approached from the rear but could not be brought up to the severe fire that was raging in our front."

If this does not show with certainty that these regiments did not fight in his line I am unable to grasp the meaning of words. Therefore the reports of McClelland and Sherman show beyond dispute that if the 15th and 16th were in any fight at all it was not one of which these two distinguished generals had knowledge.

There is another thought which seems to have escaped General Ainsworth. He agrees that these regiments did meet the enemy on Jones field or near its border; that a fierce fight ensued and that they held their position for from one to two hours. He has approved those parts of the inscriptions which so state. Bearing these things in mind, I assert that every report showing the movements of McClelland's and Sherman's divisions, or any part of them, denies the proposition that these regiments or any of the Union forces held their positions on Jones field for two hours or for one hour after the line of battle had fallen back to that point. General Sherman says, page 250, that the position which he took at 10:30, A. M., which was at least half a mile from the Jones field, was not changed substantially until four in the afternoon. He expresses it thus:

"Hildebrand's Brigade had substantially disappeared from the field, though he himself bravely remained. McDowell's and Buckland's Brigades still retained their organization, and were conducted by my aides so as to join on General McClelland's right, thus abandoning my original camps and line. This was about 10:30 a. m., at which time the enemy had made a furious attack on General McClelland's whole front. Finding him pressed I moved McDowell's Brigade directly against the left flank of the enemy, forced him back some distance, and then directed the men to avail themselves of every cover—trees, fallen timber, and a wooded valley to our right. We held this position *for four long hours*, sometimes gaining and at other times losing ground, General McClelland and myself acting in perfect concert, and struggling to maintain this line."

He then continues that about four in the afternoon he fell back and took a position with a clear field, about two hundred yards wide in his immediate front, and there remained during the rest of the day. Unless, therefore, Jones field was held by these regiments for two hours in the forenoon, they never held it, because when it again became the scene of conflict in the afternoon, it was not until after four o'clock, and then the Union troops were on the side nearest the river and they consisted of all that remained of McClelland's and Sherman's divisions.

I have looked with unusual diligence in all the reports to which I have had access for anything that conflicts with the reports of Colonels Reid and Chambers, and the sixty-two affidavits now presented to you, and while I readily grant that there are many discrepancies and inconsistencies easily discovered in comparing the reports, there is nothing anywhere that is repugnant to our claim, except one fugitive statement which I have never seen, but which General Ainsworth says is on the muster roll of Company B, 15th Iowa, to the effect that the regiment was ordered to the front about 10 A. M. If this statement exists, it must have been made many days after the battle and by one who had no authority to make it. It cannot be that this memorandum can have the effect of over-riding the official reports of Colonels Reid and Chambers and the independent recollection of every man in the two regiments who has been asked to give a history of the battle. Nor does the memorandum necessarily bear the construction put upon it. As quoted by General Ainsworth, it is "at 10 A. M." the company "marched with the regiment two and one-half miles toward Shiloh Church and engaged the enemy

for two hours." It can be just as well construed to mean that the enemy was engaged at ten o'clock as that they started on their march at ten o'clock.

I rest content in the plenitude of the proof submitted, saying only further that the reports of the Colonels, upon which I so much rely, passed, first, to General McClelland, and then to General Grant, and with their implied approval, stood unchallenged for nearly forty years as the true accounts of the noble part borne by these regiments in one of the most important battles of the war.

I hope to be given the opportunity of presenting the case in person, and therefore will not enlarge this paper, already more voluminous than I had hoped it would be.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT B. CUMMINS.

Governor of Iowa.

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